

17 November 1952

Dear Henry:

It was fine to have seen you last week and I am glad to hear that your plans are developing satisfactorily.

About the Council on Foreign Relations, as I mentioned to you, I clearly recall that you spoke to me on several occasions about your father for whom, as you know, I have a high regard. I presented his name and I can quite understand his natural surprise that you should have been elected and not he. I can assure you and him that this is not due to your superior wisdom. The simple fact is that we found, at the Council, that our membership was getting more and more composed of sexagenarians and older, and in view of my own situation, about to join these ranks, I can speak frankly about it. As a general principle we follow the rule that the relatively few remaining open memberships-- unless we enlarge our membership by changing our bylaws-- should be devoted to the coming generation of those interested in foreign affairs, that is your generation rather than mine or your father's. This was the sole reason for the action taken in his and your case. I would be entirely willing that you should show this letter to your father and I hope he will understand the situation even if he does not agree with our reasoning.

Sincerely yours,

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AWD:leb

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